integrated schools as far as possible. To facilitate this process, the Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).

Setting up of District Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped in Rural Areas

† 1662. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up District Rehabilitation Centres for physically handicapped persons in rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of State where District Rehabilitation Centres have been set up, so far;

(c) whether District Rehabilitation Centres have been set up in Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when these Centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment set up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres in the following 10 States—Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Harayana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

(c) and (d) No Sir, since limited financial resources were available for setting up District Rehabilitation Centres, therefore, DRCs could not be set up in all states including Bihar.

A programme similar to the DRC scheme called National Programme for Rehabilitation for Persons with Disability (NPRPD)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has been launched since 1999-2000. Under the scheme, financial resources are being provided to State Govt's/U.T's including to Bihar for initiating services inter-alia at the District level.

Action Plan for Senior Citizens

1663. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan for senior citizens has been drawn up;

(b) if so, whether she had discussed it with the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) on June 13, 2000 in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof and the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A draft Action Plan for implementation of National Policy on Older Persons has been drawn up.

(b) Yes, Sir. The draft Plan was discussed in the first meeting of the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) on 13th June, 2000 at Delhi.

(c)The draft Action Plan identifies various action points for the period 2000—2005 that the Government of India, State Governments, Voluntary organizations and the Community could take to bring a qualitative improvement in the lives of Senior Citizens. The members of the Council discussed the draft Action Plan and sought some time to offer their comments. The comments from many members are awaited. The Action Plan would be finalized very soon.